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THE PANTHER

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

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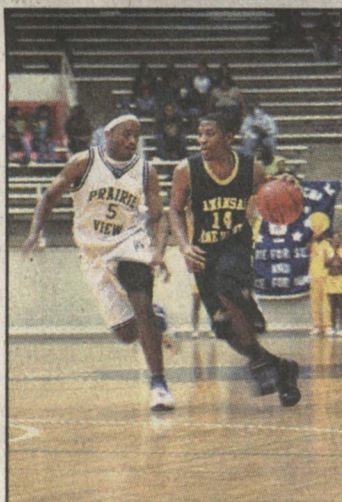
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Volume 85, Issue 14

Police tight-lipped on criminal mischief investigation

By Ashley Slayton
Panther Staff

Prairie View A&M University police officials are reluctant to talk about the investigation of a criminal incident that occurred Thursday, Feb. 1, in University Village.

Police sources say no injuries have been reported and no suspects have been charged in connection with the incident in which gunfire erupted around 2:30 a.m. in Phases I and II resulting in shattered car windows and damage to apartments.

Investigator D. Hunt said the department had "identified some people of interest," but refused to offer any further details.

According to Chief Algray Pettus, the

department is working in conjunction with the city of Prairie View to guarantee the safety of residents in the area.

Pettus said new policies have been implemented to ensure the safety of students. Among the policies recently enacted are more frequent patrols of the parking lots, gated access to University Village Phases I, II and III, and limited access to the campus after hours. To enter university grounds between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m., a student ID is required.

The police chief said all visitors to the campus during these hours must make individual arrangements with the security attendant. Gated access to the Phases is not yet finalized and is expected to be completed by the end of the spring semester.

"It's prudent to keep the university at

a heightened security," Pettus said.

On Feb. 1, Chris Harris, a sophomore architecture major, was sleeping when a bullet penetrated his front door and embedded itself in his bathroom.

"There was kind of an uneasy feeling for a couple of days," said Harris, "It was good that everyone was asleep and not up walking around."

Harris expressed his concern with how the incident was handled by authorities.

"It would have been better if the police had brought a little more action," said Harris. "We haven't really seen too much of a change."

Hunt declined to comment further about the investigation but said, "My concern is the safety and security of the faculty and students on this campus."

LADY PANTHERS BRING HEAT IN SECOND HALF

By Whitney Harris
Panther Staff

The Lady Panthers basketball team is having one of its stellar years in recent years. So far the Panthers are (12-13, 10-4) and are making a lot of progress.

The Panthers are playing dominating basketball in conference play and currently are in fourth place in overall and conference records in the SWAC. One of the leading scorers so far this season, Gaati Werema, led the Lady Panthers once again last night with 17 points and 15 rebounds, her eighth double-double of the season.

The Lady Panthers have won seven of their last 10 games and in the three losses they were defeated by a combined 22 points in all three games together. Coach Cooper seems to be making the turnaround in the Lady Panthers basketball program that was much anticipated. Cooper herself has been a winner for a long time dating back to her high school days at Locke High School in California. She then moved on to be a star at USC and for the Houston Comets in the WNBA, winning four championships. The Lady Panthers can say that they have a championship coach in the making.

Cooper was hired as the women's basketball coach in May 2005, and in just her second season on the Hill, is already making a difference, putting together a Lady Panthers team that might can contend for a SWAC title. On the men's side the Panthers are struggling, putting together a 6-20 overall record with a 4-10 record in conference play. Although the Lady Panthers were victorious against the Golden Lions, the men's basketball team wasn't so lucky, losing by a mere three points, 67-70.



By Evan White, The Panther

Built Panther tough: Hands down the best player in the SWAC conference, Florida native Gaati Werema poses as a defensive threat as she contends a shot from Golden Lion guard Arica Green.

The Lady Panthers are playing real strong and determined basketball right now, heading into the tournament and look to be a very strong threat to the rest of the conference. Next up for both PV basketball teams is a trip to Montgomery, Ala., as they take on the Hornets of Alabama State in another conference game on Feb. 24, with the women's game beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by the men's at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Jackson recalls Prairie View history

By Jerrell Allen
Panther Staff

Mayor Frank Jackson presented "The History Of Prairie View," in the Memorial Student Center Auditorium on Thursday, Feb. 15. The presentation is the first in a series of documentaries about the history of Prairie View and the surrounding area.

As the presentation got underway Jackson energetically stressed the importance of this event. "Simply from a historical context, it is impossible to talk about the history of Texas without including the history of Prairie View," he said, making a point of stressing the importance of having a detailed account of one's history.

Among the interesting facts Jackson mentioned were the origins of the land Prairie View sits, the central camp of Stephen F. Austin's settling program, and later a large plantation by the name of Alta Vista. Jackson also touched on the unique struggles that past principals and presidents of Prairie View have had to face.

Questioned on the state of negativity students often fall into, Jackson said, "Regarding the future of Prairie View we have a wonderful future...I see Prairie View as a player in the international stage. There will be a period of enlightenment...and there will be a change."

Jackson said that Prairie View, being the premiere HBCU in Texas, is a measuring stick of the state of the black community in Texas.

Jackson called the cultural "road-block" on intellectualism among the black community the "Cotton Curtain" and stressed that before progress is to be made in the black community, this veil must be lifted or destroyed.

The presentation was followed by a brief question- and answer period. After the documentary, Jackson said that this was just the first in a series.

The next presentation will be on Feb. 26 in the architecture building auditorium.



By Evan White, The Panther

Mayor Frank Jackson

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Prairie View trail riders 'show and tell'



By David Butler, The Panther

The legacy continues: Prairie View trail riders gather in celebration of the original trail riders and teach others of the rich past embedded in the legacy that lives on.

By David Butler
Panther Staff

Prairie View trail riders settled in motor homes around campus Sunday evening after kicking off activities for the annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

More than 4,000 riders saddle up each February to relive the essence of the pioneers' journey, and these cowboys and cowgirls make up 13 trail rides to Houston, in preparation for the annual rodeo.

The Prairie View Trail Ride, one of the senior groups of riders, was established in 1957. This determined community travels 102 miles from Sunnyside, Texas to Memorial Park in Houston,

Texas. Sunnyside is a black community near Brookshire, just south from Prairie View's campus, and riders register their wagons from Houston and surrounding areas.

Monday, the riders made their way to H.T. Jones Elementary School to educate students about agriculture and their way of life with a "show and tell."

Sherry Duncan, the wagon boss of wagon number four and assistant to the trail ride, said, "These kids need to know about these events and the things that take place in our culture from another point of view. My grandson has been riding for as long he could sit up straight."

Duncan said her whole family has been riding for years. "It's truly a family thing, I'm actually going to pick up my grandson

in Austin next week," she said.

After their parade through campus, they had a chili cook-off and other presentations.

Marion Smith, president of Circle 44, said, "Our chili cook-off is our yearly deed to represent scholarship here at the university. This is why we're here, to preserve the minds and hearts of these young people." The proceeds from the cook-off will go to the Rodeo Club, an organization on campus.

Sophomore Jamie Green, an agriculture major, from Houston and a member of the Rodeo Club, said "I like these events. My family is always a part of it."

Nightly, the riders will have a camp social as they make their way to central Houston. These parts of their ride promote the hospitality and friendliness

Club Pees and Vees salutes Motown

By Richard White
Panther Staff

Not only did Feb. 14 mark Valentine's Day, it was also the day of Club Pees & Vees - The Valentine's Edition: A Salute to Motown.

Some people commonly refer to Valentine's Day as "Single Awareness Day," but once students entered the doors of the MSC ballroom, that idea was merely a thing of the past. Club Pees & Vees proved to not only be an event for couples, but an event for everyone.

As the students entered, there was a slideshow with upcoming SIFE events, pictures of Motown legends, and black films that re-

mind attendees about love. Phillip Wade kept the audience entertained throughout the evening.

Ivory Townsel honored a few of Motown's greats by presenting the spectators with a short, but profound piece of history. DJ No Tables provided the crowd with soothing beats.

First to the stage was Forte, who reminded everyone it was Valentine's Day by playing some of the sweetest ballads. Then Out Spkn wooed the crowd with two special pieces of his own, and immediately after was T.O.K. (Two of a Kind) featuring D Double 3 Z E, with their rendition of "Love."

Ron Bernal sang "Ribbon in the Sky." Forte gave a salute to

Motown again by performing "Just my Imagination," "Love and Happiness," and "Let's Get it On," which was a performance that was nothing short of spell binding. Subsequently, Lionel Mosby performed an original piece of poetry titled "Puppy Love" which reminded the audience of the things they would do when they were younger, all for puppy love.

The final section of the evening came when Townsel presented her last fact of the night. Next Forte performed three songs with the final song titled, "Love Jones," which featured Nyne and Out Spkn. To close out the night, DJ No Tables spun a continuous mix that had everyone on their feet.

Students remember Ida B. Wells

By Chantel Gage
Panther Staff

In celebration of Black History Month, students gathered in the Memorial Student Center auditorium Tuesday, Feb. 13, to watch "Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice."

The film documented the struggles of a pioneering African American journalist, activist, suffragist and anti-lynching crusader during the post-reconstruction period.

Wells was born in 1862, just months shy of the Emancipation Proclamation. In spite of hardship, Wells was able to complete her studies at Rust College and become a teacher in Tennessee.

In 1884, an event happened that changed her life; Wells was riding a train car and was the only black woman among whites in the car. The conductor asked her to move and when she refused he attempted to physically remove her from her seat. Wells bit the conductor on the hand and sued the railroad

company. She was awarded \$500 in settlement until the Supreme Court reversed the decision in 1887. This event led Wells to quit her teaching job and become a leading activist in the fight for racial justice.

Wells used her writing talent as a weapon of choice. She wrote for newspapers such as The Free Speech and Headlight, The Evening Star, published anti-lynching articles, and even helped found the NAACP. Ida B. Wells continued her crusade for equal rights until her death in 1931.

Junior Arika Phillips said, "The film was very interesting, I learned that there are many more great African American pioneers than just the ones that we hear the most about."

The documentary is part of a series that will continue throughout Black History Month.

Junior Sanae Hines said, "I learned so much from this documentary, I did not know who Ida B. Wells was, but now I know who she was and so much more about black history."

Gilpin Players shine again



By LeWebster Lacy, The Panther

Break a leg: The Charles Gilpin Players wow a sold out crowd as they perform a heart-filled musical.

By Richard White
Panther Staff

The Charles Gilpin Players debuted the musical "Harlem After Hours" in front of a sold out crowd Thursday, Feb. 15, in Hobart Taylor Hall.

The show stopping performance was written by the Gilpin Players' Celeste Bedford Walker and Audrey H. Lawson. Gilpin Player Ahmad Hygh who played Cabbie, said, "We are known and praised for our acting and a musical was us stepping out on a ledge of faith and talent."

The musical kicked off in the heart of a jazzy nightclub called Harlem After Hours, and painted a colorful portrait of the brilliance of the Harlem Renaissance with quoted works from the great Langston Hughes and beautiful renditions by classics like Billie Holiday and Besie Smith.

Intertwining the notions of love, lust, and the pursuit of happiness, the audience experienced the struggles of M.C, played by drama major Derrick Stock, as he tried to balance his southern roots with his

dreams and aspirations of owning and running his own nightclub.

"It was fun and entertaining; I loved seeing how some of the actors played different character roles. It really showed off their talent," said sophomore business management major Vaneqwa Warren.

The play touched on historical events throughout the Harlem Renaissance and early civil rights movement while displaying the struggles of African American businessmen, artists, writers, and actors.

Agricultural economics major Jonhie L. Jones III said, "Programs like this bring culture to the students. They open the door and the mental capacity of ideas, and with a pleasant mix of comedy, jazz, and vocals the musical exposed the truth of where the heart of Harlem really lies."

The musical bravado, character dynamics, and delightful choreography of "Harlem After Hours" inspired a standing ovation on its opening night and will continue to grace the campus of Prairie View A&M University with encore performances starting on Thursday, Feb. 22 through Saturday, Feb. 25.

Documentary sheds light on Jim Crow era

By Chantel Gage
Panther Staff

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, students gathered in the architecture building's auditorium to watch "The Strange Demise of Jim Crow," in celebration of black history past and present.

The documentary was sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunities and is based on the struggles of segregation that blacks faced while living in Houston, Texas.

In Aug. 1959, Eldrewey Sterns, a law student at Texas Southern University was pulled over while driving down a dirt road in Houston. The officers beat and arrested Sterns for having a white woman's picture in his wallet. At a

time when blacks lived by the Jim Crow Laws this event caused an uproar in Houston's black community.

Texas students organized one of the first non-violent sit-ins in the southern region. On March 4, 1960 four TSU students walked into the local eatery and quietly sat down. The owner closed the eatery as more than 100 TSU students entered.

The students continued their protest when 48 students entered a coffee shop and were arrested for unlawful assembly. The state's highest court ruled in the students' favor.

The final stand for the desegregation of public facilities was on March 23, 1963 at a parade in celebration of the homecoming of astronaut, John H. Glenn. The

plan was to interrupt the parade by marching and broadcasting nationwide unless the demands of integration were met. The non-violent way of protest helped to shape Houston into a city known for its diversity.

"I just hope blacks continue to break records and uplift others along the way," stated sophomore Nicole Morris.

The documentary is part of a series that is taking place all throughout February. The purpose of this series is to "expose students to their historical past, to help them appreciate the rights they have today," stated Renee Williams, a representative of the Office of Equal Opportunities. Williams also hopes that the films will "help students change their behavior and communication with one another, and their use of language violent behavior."

Officials at Texas juvenile prison accused of molesting inmates

By Larry McShane
Associated Press

DALLAS- An internal investigation by the Texas Youth Commission accused high-ranking officials at an isolated state juvenile prison of molesting young male inmates, according to a copy of the report released to The Dallas Morning News.

The West Texas State School, located between Midland and Pecos in rural Pyote, houses 250 male inmates. Reports say many prison staffers there complained about the abuse to their immediate bosses and to officials in Austin, but for more than a year, no one in charge did anything to stop it. No one has been prosecuted in the case.

Some say similar problems afflict many prisons run by the Texas Youth Commission.

"The TYC has established a dynasty of corruption that condones the mistreatment of youth in

its care," Randal Chance, a retired inspector general for the agency, said in a story in Sunday's edition of The News. "Staff are being paid your tax money to rape your children."

Agency officials were stunned when they learned the Texas Rangers had substantiated charges of abuse at the Pyote facility in 2005, according to TYC Executive Director Dwight Harris.

"Quite frankly, it was a shock and a surprise to us that this could ever happen," Harris said.

However an internal investigation, "Summary Report for Administrative Review," released last week to the newspaper, said that a West Texas caseworker raised the issue in a letter to Harris five months before the Rangers' investigation.

"There are definitely places where we had opportunities we missed," said Tim Savoy, TYC spokesman. "We regret doing that."

The report released to the newspaper said the abuse stemmed

from a culture in which prison officials could abuse their power, punish children who tried to complain about them and reward those who gave them sexual favors.

The investigation alleged the former principal of the school lured inmates into sexual acts with offers of birthday cake and promises of help getting into college. The former assistant superintendent was accused of sexual contact with several youths.

The investigation found that the men kept the inmates silent by threatening to lengthen their sentences.

A year of quiet complaints within the TYC led to a Texas Ranger launching an investigation in February 2005, but the situation didn't receive much notice until recently when news organizations and state legislators began asking questions.

Ray Brookins, former assistant superintendent at Pyote, and John Paul Hernandez, former principal, both resigned their jobs in 2005

in lieu of termination.

Brookins, 41, who lives in Austin, declined to comment. Hernandez, also 41, asked if he committed the acts described in the reports, said, "Oh, absolutely not." He declined further comment on the advice of his lawyer.

Hernandez was the principal of the Richard Milburn Academy, a charter school in Midland until last week. On Thursday, he was placed on paid leave pending an investigation.

The top official at the Pyote facility for much of the time under investigation was Lemuel "Chip" Harrison, the superintendent. TYC's inspector general said Harrison received repeated reports of wrongdoing, but those reports were "not properly reported and not addressed with documented supervisory intervention by Mr. Harrison."

He was put on probation for 90 days as a result, but was subsequently promoted to director of juvenile corrections for TYC.

He told the newspaper that

he had not seen the TYC report, but, "I don't know of anybody who ever covered up anything."

The cases involving Brookins and Hernandez were referred to federal authorities, who did not prosecute. However, Ward County District Attorney Randall Reynolds said recently that the state cases involving Brookins and Hernandez are pending. He wouldn't say if he would present them to a grand jury.

TYC houses the offenders, ages 10 to 21, who are considered the most dangerous, incorrigible or chronic.

Chance, the retired inspector general, has written a book on TYC, called "Raped by the State". He said cover-ups are common in the agency. It's widespread," he said, "and management knows about it and they are not doing enough to stop it"

The bill would also reinforce the TYC's investigative force. "They have some real serious problems."

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Why God wants you to denounce your letters

Exposing the truth about secret societies through the word of God

Letter jackets, line names, party lines, step shows, and popularity. These are the most coveted vanities that college students long for during their undergraduate tenure. I was certainly one who wanted such a lifestyle. Last year around September I saw a DVD series by Elder G. Craig Lewis called the *Truth Behind Hip Hop* which breaks down the true agenda of Hip Hop and R&B music through the word of God. During the series he began to talk about how my personal walk with God was being contaminated and jeopardized by wanting to associate myself with Greek life. How you ask? Well, let's see what the word of God says about this.

Present Day Idolatry Right under Our Nose

In Exodus 20:3-5 God says, "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself any idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God."

Let's focus on a couple of words in that scripture so that we can take that and build on it. The word "idol" is defined as a person or thing that is adored and highly esteemed. The word "worship" means to revere, adore, or pay homage to someone. By these definitions secret societies, fraternities, and sororities are idols. Why? Because these organizations are praised, adored, and highly esteemed so much that it literally takes the place of God himself in people's hearts. Don't believe me? How many people you know have ever been to a party or step show hosted by some Greek organization on a Saturday night, and because you were so tired and sleepy Sunday morning you didn't get up and worship God in his house? Or how many Christians in secret organizations find the time to make step practice, meetings, or lodge gatherings, but don't witness to someone about Christ or study His word? My first point is that secret societies such as Greek fraternities and sororities are idols to themselves and to people who long to be a member of them.

In ancient Greece and Egypt, especially around the times of the Old Testament, the inhabitants of these regions worshiped idols or false gods. We all know them because they made us learn about them in grade school: Cupid, Zeus, Athena, Ra (sun god), Hades, etc. Demonic forces have used places like these for thousands of years to promote idol worship because they know that idolatry puts a barrier between the participant and God. Ephesians 6:12 says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness in this world, and against spiritual wickedness in high places." So this means that demons use people to establish their antichrist agenda, by antichrist I mean anything opposite of the word of God, in the Earth.

My second point is that demons used the founders of secret societies and Greek/Egyptian organizations to create a stronghold for young people for years to come. How do I know that demons did this? Because demons always work against the word of God, that's their job. Man wouldn't purposely do something against God's word unless they were deceived or influenced by unclean spirits, just as Eve was deceived by Satan. For instance, a form of idol worship in the Old Testament was to play music, dance, and chant in order to get their god to hear them. This is denoted in Exodus 32:19 when the children of Israel danced around the golden calf as Moses was away speaking with God, and in I Kings 18:26 when the prophets of idol god Baal danced, chanted, and marked themselves around an altar to try to prove their god was stronger than the Lord. Corrupt kings in the Old Testament, such as Nebuchadnezzar, would force people to pledge their allegiance to the idol god that the king set up for himself (Daniel 3). Hmmm... sounds familiar? Today organizations play music, dance, and chant to the Greek and Egyptian gods. You might think that they are dancing for fun, but I'm trying to show you where that activity originated. They give you line names derived from false Greek Gods like Ares, they encourage you to tattoo and brand yourself like the false prophets did, they also require that you pledge your life, your faith, and your trust to your brothers, sisters, and the name of their organization. People listen, demons don't change and God doesn't change. What demons did in the Old Testament thousands of years ago they're also doing today. If idolatry was not pleasing to God then, do you really think it's cool now because some community service gets done, or because their national leaders say it's good for all members to go to church and claim to believe in God? Don't fool yourself. This truly is present day idolatry right on our campus, and God demands that it stops now!!!

The Anti-Christ Agenda

What do I mean by anti-Christ agenda? No, I'm not talking about the person called the Anti-Christ described in the book of Revelation. I'm talking about the mindset and doctrine that he represents. Let's go

to some examples in scripture to show what I'm talking about. Proverbs 20:1 says, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink a riotous brawler; and whoever errs or reels because of it is not wise." Hosea 4:11 says, "Harlotry (fornication) and wine and new wine take away the heart and the mind and the spiritual understanding." So from the word of God we see that beer (wine) and strong drink (liquor) take away spiritual understanding and those who indulge in the consumption of these are not wise. But what do the organizations promote? Thirsty Thursdays, dollar drinks, free drinks, and special drinks that only that organization can make. On top of that, poor folks pledging are killed every year from alcohol poisoning and we, the church, say nothing. This conflicts with the word of God.

I Corinthians 7:9 says, "But if they have not self-control (restraint of their passions), they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be a flame [with passion and torture continually with ungratified desire]." Organizations continuously promote an atmosphere where fornication and other perverse sexual acts are encouraged with multiple partners across the campus. They hand out condoms, give seminars on safe sex, condone and promote homosexuality, and in some cases spread STDs. Students just coming to this university fall victim to the hype that surrounds these organizations and as a result deliberately disobey God's commands. This also conflicts with the word of God.

In Matthew 22:37 Jesus says, "And He replied to him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and your entire mind (intellect)." In order for us to love Him we must obey His commandments. Organizations encourage members as well as potential members to dedicate all their time and efforts to their success. These organizations want you to study their history, attend their seminars on Wednesdays during Bible study, do everything they ask, and sacrifice your entire life so that they can continue to prosper. If all your time is committed to this organization, how can you serve the Lord with everything you have? This is the third and greatest conflict with the Word of God.

A Proclamation from the Lord

As an ambassador for Christ (II Corinthians 5:20) it is my responsibility to boldly proclaim the will of God to this campus and to let people know that the grace of God is infinite. As I close, I want to point out the difference between sin and iniquity and how those words are related to this topic.

Sin is anything that is against the word of God, while iniquity is intentional sin. Now that I've shown you through the word of God that following, involving, supporting, and wanting to join fraternities, sororities, and other secret societies are a sin, I bring to you a bold proclamation from the mouth of God.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20, says "I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you that I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; therefore choose life that your descendants may live. Any may love the Lord your God, obey His voice, and cling to Him. For He is your life and the length of your days that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

Deuteronomy 28:15 says, "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee."

I speak these words prophetically as a messenger on this Earth. Every secret organization, fraternity, and sorority, listen up. If you call yourself a Christian, then it is impossible to grow spiritually and walk in His perfect will for your life while you worship false gods and wear their letters upon your body. If you choose to take the word of God to heart and obey it by denouncing your involvement and affiliation with the organization, you will be choosing life and the Lord will honor that sacrifice publicly. He will send blessings upon you and your household, because you have chosen to obey Him despite what people say. Please don't ignore His word, pray for guidance from His Holy Spirit and allow Him to line you up with His will. My prayer is that God's anointing will cause the fighting, shooting, stealing, fornication, idolatry, drinking, gossiping, and lying that have been happening on this campus because of the fraternities and sororities to stop as students like you read this article and decide to follow the Lord Jesus. I know that as Prairie View students and faculty truly obey God's word totally without compromise and offer ourselves as sacrifices, the Lord Jesus will prosper this school and the entire nation will see the manifestation of His glory on this campus. Hallelujah.

If you choose not to listen to this warning, read Deuteronomy 28:15 to find out what is in store for you. Again, please don't ignore this warning because God's love is for everyone who hearkens unto His voice, but His wrath is reserved for those who choose to disobey Him.

- Jared Jacobs

PURPLE & GOLD POLL

By Oliver Egenti
Panther Staff

What is your Valentine's Day horror or success story?



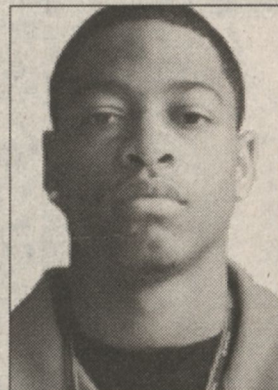
"It was a success because my friends and I got together for a Valentine's Day gathering and we had a good time."

Natalie Semien
Junior
Human Science



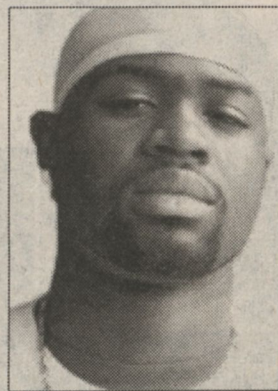
"I went to see Tyler Perry's new movie, *Daddy's Little Girls*. Then we went to a Mexican restaurant called *On The Border*. So in all, I would say that my Valentine's Day was a success."

Rondrea Taylor
Junior
English



"My number one in my life right now is my mom. So I sent her some flowers and some chocolates. So I'm satisfied with my Valentine's day. Love you mom."

Taylor Williams
Freshman
Business



"My Valentine's Day was playa' because I had fun showing some love to the ladies for a day."

Jamaal Parker
Freshman
Business Management

Do you have an issue that you believe the students, faculty or staff need to be aware of?

Email *The Panther* today:
panther@pvamu.edu

pvpanther.com

Panthers suffer close home loss, 70-67

By Steven Kennedy and
Rashad Morgan
Panther Staff

After defeating the Delta Devils in a close home victory, the Panther men's basketball team fell to the Golden Lions Monday, in one of many close home losses.

In the first half, the Panther's poor shooting percentage, both from the floor and the free throw line held them from attaining the lead. Despite the missed shots Prairie View remained in striking distance, only trailing by one point at the end of the half, 27-28.

The second half was the same story with the Golden Lions keeping the edge on the Panthers offensively.

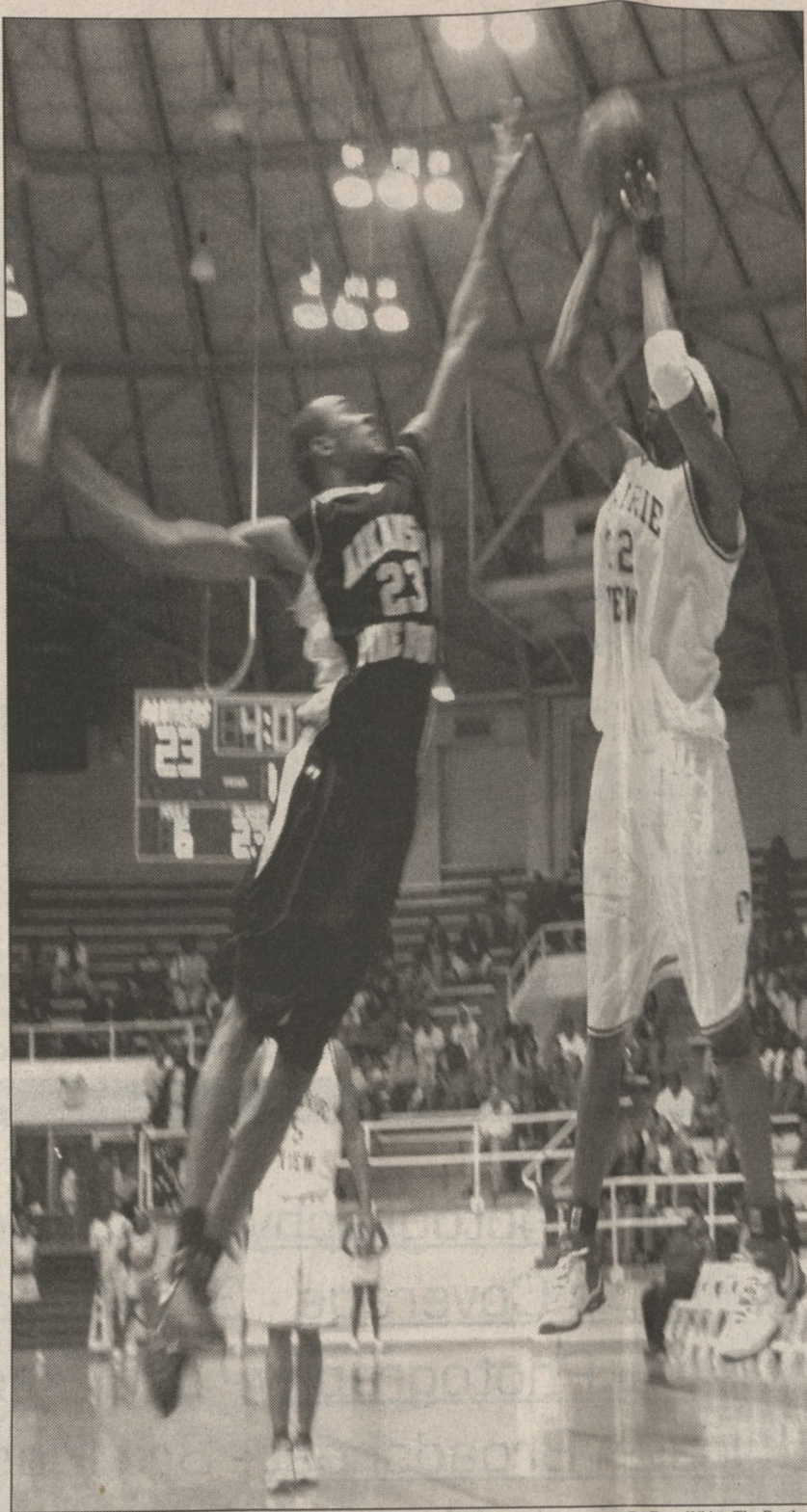
Despite a solid showing overall the Panthers failed to capitalize on Pine Bluff's mistakes towards the end of the game. The Golden Lions walked away with a conference victory, 70-67.

Brian Ezech has led the team in scoring on the most occasions while the team has had multiple leaders in rebounds game after game.

The men's team has struggles in seasons following the 2002-2003 season when the team won the SWAC. Currently Ezech leads the team in scoring for the season averaging 10.7 points per game, and is also leading the team in rebounds per game with a 4.7 average.

The month of March is right around the corner and that can only mean one thing, the SWAC tournament. The men's team is focusing on completing the season on a high and positive note.

Shooter's touch: Senior Clifford Franks goes for the points beyond the arch.



By Evan White, The Panther

FAMU swimmer makes way through rough waters

By Dontaye Carter
Black College Wire

Swimmer Mujahid El-Amin has rewritten the 100-yard butterfly record at Florida A&M University in only his second season on campus. But his success has been accompanied by tragedy and unexpected financial challenge.

Shortly after he broke the record, finishing the butterfly event in an astonishing 50.03 seconds, his 17-year-old brother Luqman El-Amin, who had earned a swimming scholarship to Florida A&M, died in a car accident during a winter-break visit home to Atlanta.

"My brother's death was a good motivator," said El-Amin, a 20-year-old junior and criminal justice major known to his teammates as M.J. "It helped me become more focused."

In 2004, Florida A&M announced El-Amin's signing, describing him as "one of the nation's top high school swimmers and a 2008 Olympic hopeful." El-Amin, who held 10 Georgia high school records, was the second-fastest American teenager in the 100-meter butterfly, the university said.

The city of Atlanta said he would attend Florida A&M on a full scholarship. But almost two years ago, El-Amin and his teammates discovered the university was cutting financial support to the swimming and diving team in an effort to balance the athletics budget. Suddenly El-Amin did not have the money to train as he would like. He ended up taking a semester off and working two jobs to pay for his living expenses.

"He is very motivated," assistant coach Doug Carrington said of his star swimmer. "He doesn't like to lose. Now that we are rekindling the team chemistry, he knows he has to step up." With El-Amin, Carrington said, "the thing that stands out the most is his desire to win."

When his days seemed dark, he turned to his sociology professor Clifton Brown, who played a key role in helping him recover.

"He is a great teacher," El-Amin said. "He was the only teacher to speak in a way that touched students." "He spoke about being a leader, about being open to criticism, because whether or not you know it, you're on display wherever you go," El-Amin said. "That criticism makes you better as a person."

"In swimming, techniques are very important," Lee said. "His techniques are great. They have led him to appear in the Olympic trials. As long as he can stay academically fit and injury-free, there are quite a few records he can break."

Florida A&M's 100-yard butterfly record was previously held by Frantz Huggins, who timed in at 50.22 seconds in 1997.

El-Amin is on pace to break at least two or three more records before the end of the season. "This season is like his sophomore year, and he is still learning to become more aware as an athlete," Carrington said.

El-Amin is only milli-seconds away from breaking the record for the 200-yard individual medley and the 200-yard butterfly. Goals like these help keep El-Amin motivated. "I am praying to set more records," El-Amin said. "I want to win Most Valuable Player at our conference meet."

Softball team gets first win of season

By Richard White
Panther Staff

To kick off the 2007 softball season, the Texas Southern Tigers were the first opponents up to the plate for Prairie View's Lady Panthers. The game was played at Lady Panther field. The day was set to be a double header for each team, and no matter what conditions, the Lady Panthers were ready to play.

The first game started out slow for the Lady Panthers, with their first runs coming in the fifth inning, and their second two runs coming in the sixth. In the end the Lady Panthers lost their first game with a score of 7-4.

The highlights for that game were two stolen bases by Destiney Davis, five strikeouts for Analisa Gonzales, and a RBI apiece for Nikki Lilly, Sheena Robertson, Brenda Sneed, and Amy Miller. The first game was merely a warm up for the Lady Panthers as they were ready to get their first win and send the Tigers back home.

As the second game got underway, all was quiet until for both

teams until the third inning. With Texas Southern scoring three runs the Lady Panthers refused to lose. Davis racked up another stolen base for the season, and scored the first run of the game for the Lady Panthers. With the score now 3-1, it was now or never for the Lady Panthers. Little did the Lady Tigers know that those three runs that were scored in the third inning, would be the only three runs they would score in the whole game.

The Lady Panthers soon got on fire in the fifth inning and showed no sign of cooling off. The fifth inning started off with Amy Miller with a single, then stealing second, and then soon scoring. As Lilly doubled, Jessica Thomas scored. All during the same inning, the Lady Panthers loaded the bases, with Brenda Sneed at the plate.

With a Brenda Sneed single, the Panthers were able to capitalize and get two runs in to put on the score board. As the game dwindled to a close, the Lady Panthers held the Tigers off to get their first win of the season.

Analisa Gonzales earned her first win of the season with five strikeouts.

Lady Panthers blow out another conference foe

By Brian Wright
Panther Staff

The Lady Panthers of Prairie View A&M University took on the Mississippi Valley Lady Devils Saturday. The Lady Panthers got off to a lightning start against their opponents with early baskets from Gaati Werema and Candice Thomas.

Mississippi Valley had a hard time trying to control the Lady Panther offense and at times looked as they were scoring at will. As the half progressed Prairie View stifled the Lady Devils with strong defense and great offensive production by the talented Lady Panther backcourt.

The struggling Mississippi Valley squad tried to fight off the barrage of baskets from the Prairie View offense, but found it too much and went into the half down

27-8.

In the opening of the second half the Lady Panthers continued to dominate the Lady Devils, with strong offensive production from the backcourt of Thomas and Smith.

The Lady Panthers continued to build a massive lead scoring at any given opportunity against the nearly useless Valley defense. They continued to show offensive effectiveness by putting together a 30-point lead midway through the second half.

Mississippi tried to put together a comeback but found the Lady Panthers were too much to handle. Shavonne Smith led the Lady Panther team with 19 points in the 77-60 victory.

Prairie View put together an impressive win against a formidable opponent and put another win on an already stellar record in the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

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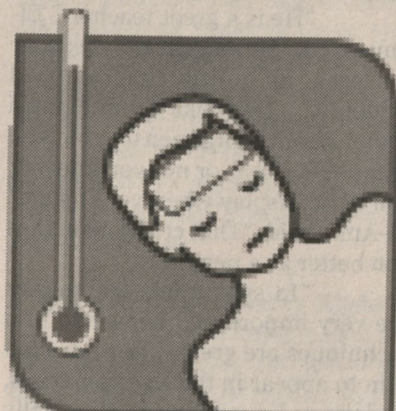
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What you may not know about

Meningitis

Here are some symptoms of bacterial and viral Meningitis.



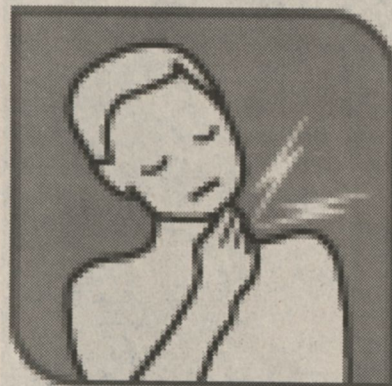
Fever – cold
hands & feet



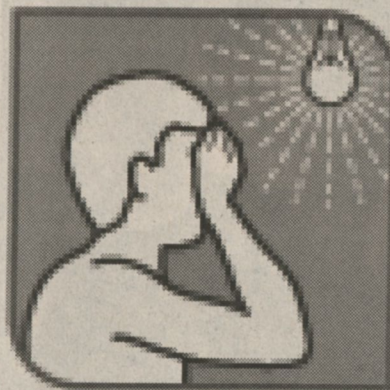
Vomiting



Headache



Stiff neck



Dislike of
bright lights



Drowsy,
difficult to wake

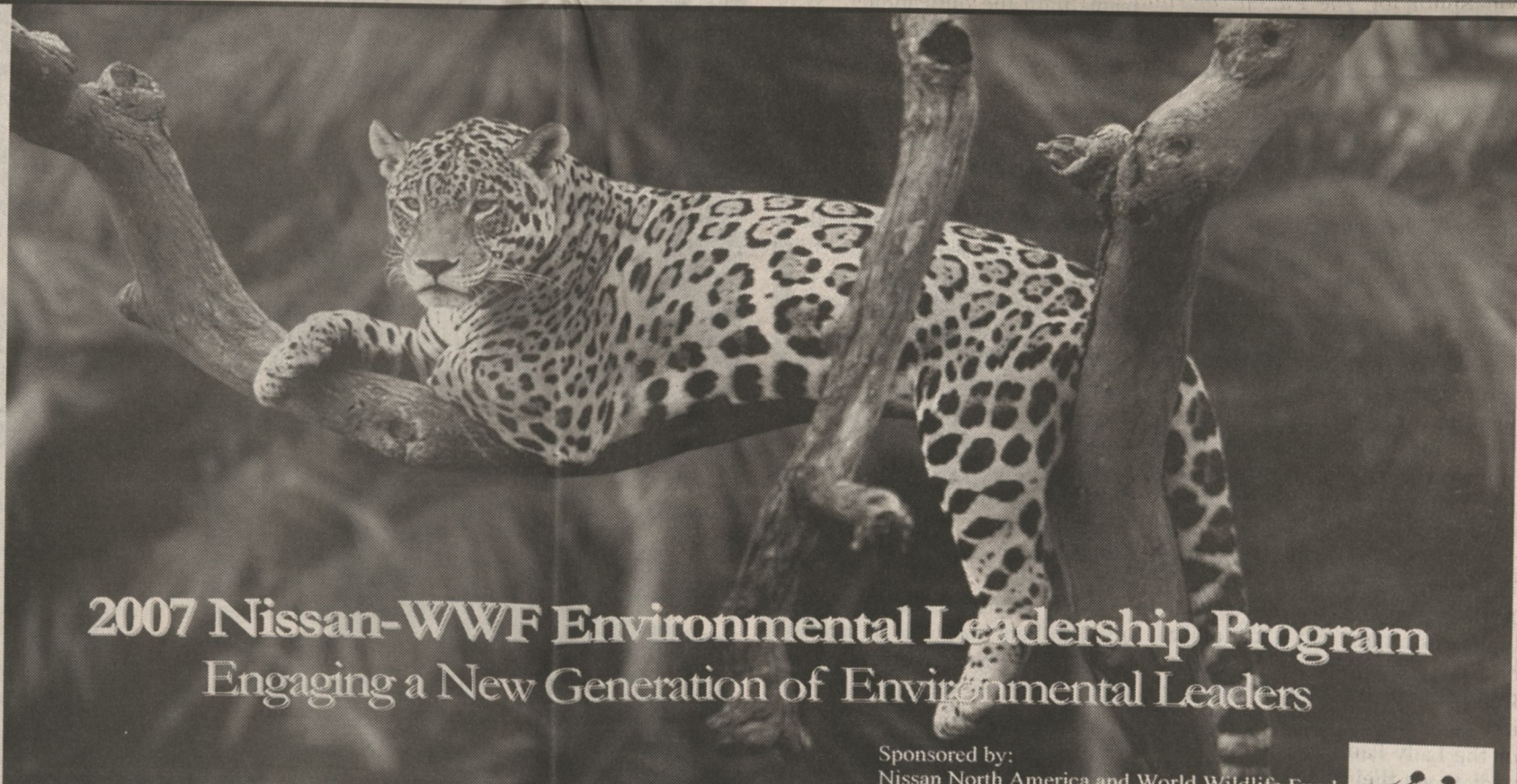
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Congratulations to The Panther



on its success at the 9th Annual National HBCU Newspaper Conference in Tallahassee, Fla.

Best Sports Photography - 1st Place
Best Sports Coverage - 3rd Place
Best Use of Photography - 3rd Place
Best Design Broadsheet - 3rd Place
Best Headline - Honorable Mention



2007 Nissan-WWF Environmental Leadership Program Engaging a New Generation of Environmental Leaders

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About the Program

The future of the planet lies in the hands of talented and motivated students who will become strong advocates for the environment. The Nissan-WWF Environmental Leadership Program provides tomorrow's leaders with the opportunity to learn more about the most pressing issues facing the global environment today; to meet with top scientists, policy makers and business leaders; to develop leadership skills; and to build a network of peers from around the country.



Eligibility

- Full-time students enrolled in a four year bachelor's degree program graduating in 2008
- Enrolled at a participating university - Please check online for a complete list of universities.
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- Students of any nationality may apply

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Sixteen exceptional students will be chosen to participate in the program, which will include:

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Application available at:

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/nissanleaders>

Jaguar (c) WWF-Canon / Y.-J. REY-MILLET

Expectations are high as Oscar time reels in

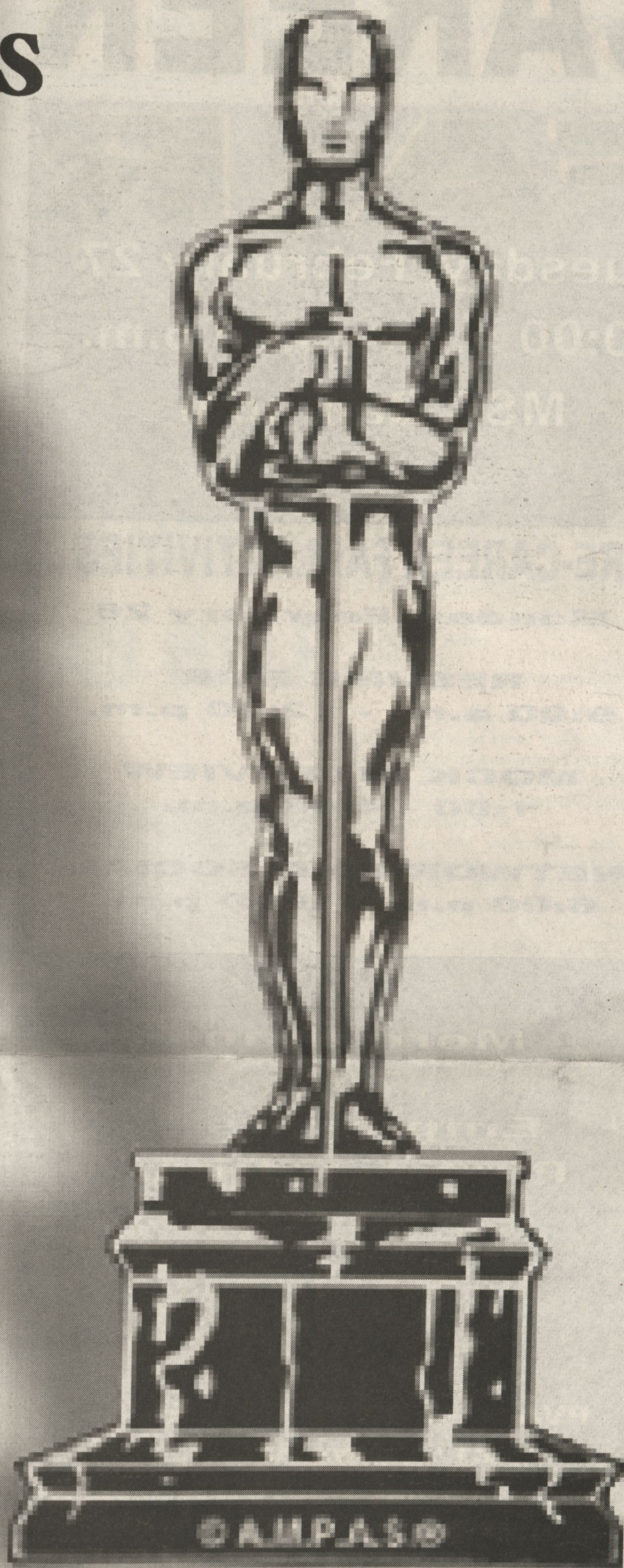
By Dominique Lewis
Panther Staff

The 79th Annual Academy Awards will be honoring the finest that have graced our silver screen year round, so get ready for the biggest night in Hollywood.

The buzz for this upcoming event is tremendous. Whose designers' clothing will be bizarre? Who's going to present? What couples will grace the red carpet? Literally, tons of questions come to mind.

Well, the nominations are in and it looks like the award show is packed with stiff competition in a slew of categories. Just to name a few, Will Smith for *The Pursuit of Happyness*, and Leonardo DiCaprio in *Blood Diamond* are predominantly veterans in the leading role category. Supporting actors Eddie Murphy for *Dreamgirls*, Mark Wahlberg in *The Departed*, and Djimon Honsu in *Blood Diamond*. The lady nominees are looking pretty steep in competition as well. Meryl Streep, *The Devil Wears Prada*, Kate Winslet, *Little Children*, and Helen Mirren, *Queen*, make for an entertaining list of Oscar winning hopefuls, in the leading actress category. As for the supporting roles, the rebirth of "Effey," portrayed by Jennifer Hudson, is nominated for her performance in *Dreamgirls*. She is up against actresses Cate Blanchett, in *Notes on a Scandal*, and Abigail Breslin in *Little Miss Sunshine*.

Dreamgirls and *Blood Diamond* will definitely shine because although both entertaining movies are not nominated for Best Movie, they are each nominated heavily in other categories. The star-studded event will be hosted by the very funny, Ellen Degeneres, and it is scheduled to hit your plasma on Feb. 25 at 7p.m./ 8et on ABC. So tune in to see who's taking home a shiny gold man this year. Who knows, maybe the actor or actress you want to see win will thank you. As for the losers who didn't get nominated (sorry if that seemed harsh) like Beyonce, Angelina, and other countless individuals who didn't get the chance, it's not their fault that they're not the best. Maybe next year they will have the role of their dreams and deliver some powerful performances. Tinseltown's finest will grace the red carpet in glitz and glamour for the lovely camera and fans, so stay tuned for the best and worst dressed, as well as the interviews that will take place during pre-show and after-math sessions on www.oscars.com, just in case you miss all the action.



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20 QUESTIONS



1. Who really couldn't believe 20 questions didn't run in last week's edition? 2. If they were filled with pervasive babblings concurring with the wits of unintelligent students, would you read it? 3. Who knows what pervasive means? 4. Better yet, do you even know what question #2 means? 5. Who was the white girl who rocked "I Love Rock and Roll" at karaoke night? 6. Not that anyone can care too much, but where has she been hiding? 7. Who was the short stuff trying to serenade the ladies? 8. Did he think his sexual pelvic thrusts would score with the females? 9. Guess he didn't read "The good man" or "good woman" article? 10. Why was this loner the only one who didn't know the words to "Pony"? 11. Omega's top model, are you serious? 12. What were numbers 1-27 thinking? 13. Will these models' pictures be viewable by public eye? 14. What were Health Services thinking offering a free pill and charging \$90 for a shot? 15. Why was there a rumor in Houston that 300 students were affected? 16. Who's upset that College Hill chose to go to the University of the Virgin Islands? 17. Can you picture Jabari and No Drawers gracing the virgin campus? 18. Is everybody going back to Padre for Spring Break? 19. Is it safe to ask, what happens in Padre, stays in Padre? 20. What do you think?

This is for entertainment only. The questions submitted are not the views of **The Panther**. Want to tell us what you think? Please bring your comments and questions to Rm. 219 MSC or e-mail us at panther@pvamu.edu. Questions are printed at the discretion of **The Panther**.

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY CAREER SPRING 2007

Partial List

FAIR

Tuesday, February 27

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

MSC Ballroom

PRE-CAREER FAIR ACTIVITIES

Monday, February 26

RESUME FAIR

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

MOCK INTERVIEW

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

NETWORKING SOCIAL

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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Note - PVAMU Cluster Members

This Week On The Hill

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2007	Friday, Feb. 23, 2007	Saturday, Feb. 24, 2007	Sunday, Feb. 25, 2007	Monday, Feb. 26, 2007	Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2007	Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007
8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Special Programs Black History Month @ MSC Auditorium 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Delta Sigma Theta Black History Film Screening @ New Science Rm. A103 6:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Karnation Kourt Seminar: Beauty Is Skin Deep @ Delco Rm. 220 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Alpha Phi Alpha Seminar, New Science Bldg. Rm. 101 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Gamma Phi Delta Bible Study @ Chapel	7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Recruitment Patherland Day on the Hill 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Sigma Alpha Iota Sig-Phi Picnic @ Student Park	7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Recruitment Patherland Day on the Hill 6 p.m. - 11:55 p.m. Model United Nations Video Game Tournament @ Student Lounge	4:20 p.m. - 7 p.m. Zeta Phi Beta Founders Day Program @ Chapel 4:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. SIFE Gospel Explosion @ MSC Auditorium Rm. 111 6 p.m. - 11:55 p.m. Model United Nations Video Game Tournament @ Student Lounge	All Day Tau Beta Sigma Can and Food Drive @ MSC 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Zeta Phi Beta Seminar @ New Science Rm. A103	5 p.m. - 11:55 p.m. Zeta Phi Beta Yard Show @ Alumni Field/Water Fountain Area 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. SIFE Seminar: Starting and Managing A Small Busi- ness @ Hobart Taylor Classroom 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Alpha Lambda Omega Men On The Hill Part 1 @ Woolfolk Rm. 203 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Church of Christ Bible Study @ Delco Rm. 240	10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Scholarship Office Scholarship Meeting @ MSC Auditorium Rm. 111 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. CAB Hump Day @ Alumni Field 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Blackstone Pre-Law Society Membership Drive @ MSC Outside 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. History Club MLK Lecture @ New Sci- ence Rm. A103
 Times of sun and clouds High: 73 °F Low: 63 °F	 Mostly cloudy and windy High: 74 °F Low: 63 °F	 Gusty thunderstorm possible High: 72 °F Low: 46 °F	 Partly Sunny High: 66 °F Low: 47 °F	 Cloudy most of the time High: 69 °F Low: 43 °F	 Sunny and Cooler High: 57 °F Low: 35 °F	 Plenty of sun High: 56 °F Low: 36 °F